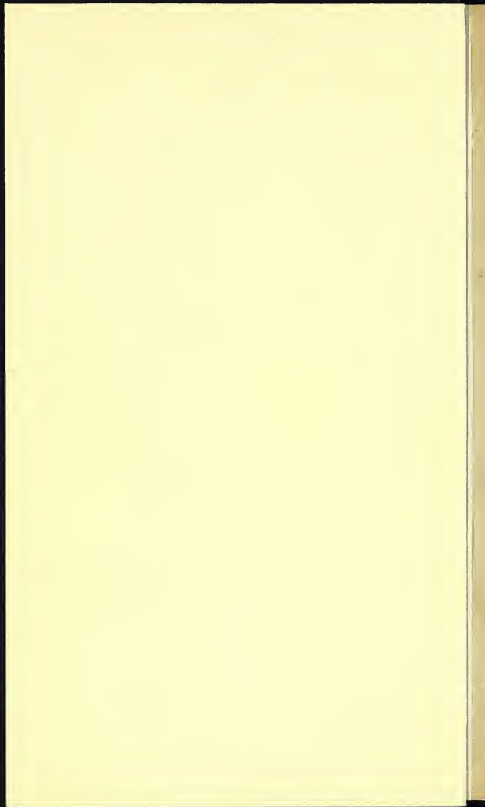


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IMPROVED
SHORT-HORNS,
AND
THEIR PRETENSIONS STATED;
BEING
AN ACCOUNT OF THIS
CELEBRATED BREED OF CATTLE,
DERIVED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
AN ENQUIRY
AS TO THEIR VALUE FOR GENERAL PURPOSES.
PLACED IN COMPETITION
WITH THE
Improved Herefords.

BY THE
REV. HENRY BERRY.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:
JAMES RIDGWAY, 169, PICCADILLY.

M.DCCC.XXX.

GENERAL INDEX

THE INDEX TO THE
 VOLUME OF THE
 JOURNAL OF THE
 AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
 FOR THE YEAR 1900
 IS HEREBY
 PRESENTED

CONTENTS

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

TO

SIR CHARLES MORGAN, BART. M. P.

Dear Sir,

The judicious and ample encouragement which you offer, on all occasions, to the important interests of Agriculture, and my personal experience of your kindness, relieve me from doubts which I should otherwise entertain respecting your reception of this insignificant work. I will not affect to disclaim the merit of good intention in undertaking it, although fully sensible of its imperfect execution. For the former you will, I am sure, give me credit;—the latter you will considerately overlook.

I have the honour to be,

Dear Sir,

Your faithful and obedient Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

JUNE 11TH, 1824.

P R E F A C E.

THE writer of the following pages is not actuated by any desire to court notoriety, nor by a belief that he possesses talents adequate to the advantageous treatment of such a subject as that which they embrace ; but as secondary and inferior aids are not therefore to be rejected, because the first and more effective cannot be obtained, he has applied himself to the task, with such ability as he can command, at a time when the exertion appears necessary, and when they, who could with the greatest effect make it, have declined the undertaking.—Many are the difficulties which he has encountered, and perhaps it will be remarked, few has he overcome. Nevertheless, it is confidently believed that his motives will plead powerfully in mitigation of the censure which might otherwise with propriety

be applied. From the candid and liberal, if he obtain not applause, he looks for indulgence.

It will be obvious that the writer's judgment is decidedly in favour of the Short-Horns, and it may, therefore, be objected, that he is an unfit person, on that account at least, to form a comparative estimate of the merits of that breed and the Herefords. But, in answer to such objection, he deems it sufficient to observe, that the main object of this estimate is to induce the public to examine and judge for themselves, and not to enforce the reception of his dictum without such enquiry.

On this little work itself, it would be absurd to employ literary criticism. The only animadversion which the writer can apprehend, is that which he has taken the greatest care not to merit,—animadversion on inaccuracy of statement.

P R E F A C E

TO THE

S E C O N D E D I T I O N .

THE period which has elapsed, since the publication of a former Edition, has not passed unmarked by events corroborative of the view taken by the Writer in the comparison instituted between the Short-Horns and Herefords.—Much, too, of the illiberality, which formerly existed, has given way to better feeling, and the force of conviction. It seems, then, not unreasonable to presume, that the enquiry may now be entered into with candour by all parties, while the increasing celebrity, and wide dissemination of the Short-Horns, throughout this country, as well as abroad, justify the belief that any account of their origin, however necessarily imperfect, will be read by all who have adopted them, with interest, and by some, perhaps, with advantage.

1788

1788

the first of the year, the weather was
very cold, and the snow lay deep
on the ground. The wind was
strong, and the rain fell in
showers. The people were
very busy, and the work was
done with great diligence.
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PREFACE.

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INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

ON a perusal of the title page, it will occur to every reader at all acquainted with the subject, that no ordinary difficulties must be encountered and overcome, before an account of the Short-horns, at a period much earlier than that at which Mr. CHAS. COLLING adopted them, can be offered to the public. These difficulties have long opposed what appeared an insuperable bar to the present undertaking; and it is not because they are now removed, that it has been commenced and completed, but it is owing to a conviction, the result of mature deliberation, that the public will in this, as in other similar instances, be satisfied without minute details of circumstances which are recorded chiefly only in the memory, and will, as is the case with respect

to almost all events which have occurred at a remote period, be enabled to form a tolerably correct general judgment from a few authenticated and conformable particulars.

To breeders of Short-horns, convinced as they are of the excellence of that stock, and in daily experience of its general utility, interesting as must prove every particular connected with their admirable breed of cattle, an account of them from a very early period is by no means indispensable.

If it be granted, though the admission is in most cases far too liberal, that the breeders of other rival stocks, of the Herefords in particular, have not condemned the Short-horns unseen; how are we to account, except we attribute it to the spirit of illiberal rivalry, for their tenacious opposition to the award of approval which has, with few exceptions, attended their exhibition on public occasions? The breeders of Short-horns, and that portion of the public who are disinterested, have been satisfied to see from Mr. C. COLLING'S time, a numerous

race of beautiful animals, in no important or unusual respect differing from what they were in his possession: they have beheld like producing like; they have observed the prices of this breed, during a period of unexampled distress, still rise higher than those of any other; they have found the same profits, in proportion to the state of the times, still attending them; and, in the hands of persons of common capacity, they behold the same beauties and perfections in full and undiminished lustre, although the great master, under whose fostering care and skill they first became candidates for public approval (in a very considerable degree), is no longer actively employed to promote them. It is therefore that the breeders of Short-horns are indifferent as to investigation before the period when Mr. C. COLLING first exhibited his stock. It is therefore that they have taken no pains to remove grounds of objection, which they conceived no person of common sense and common experience would allow to operate upon his mind. But now, the breeders of Herefords, compelled to admit the perfec-

tions of certain Short-horns, qualify the admission by the remark, "Aye, but yours are a breed of *yesterday*, and you cannot *go on*. These extraordinary exceptions will occur in any breed; but look to the general race of what are termed Short-horns, and in them behold what, after all your care and skill, yours shall come to in the end." It is to prevent these wrong impressions from misleading the public, that this little work now appears; and if the writer shall fail in his object, to lack of ability, rather than of zeal, be his miscarriage attributed.

IMPROVED SHORT-HORNS.

To the banks of the river Tees, separating the counties of Durham and York, reference is to be had for an account of the originals of the improved Short-horns.—There, upwards of eighty years ago, existed a breed of cattle, for a description of which the author is indebted to an old and celebrated breeder now living,—in colour resembling what is called the improved breed of the present day, except that the fashionable roan was not quite so prevalent; they are described in general character also to have differed very little from their descendants. Possessing a fine mellow touch, good hair, light offal, particularly wide carcasses, and deep fore-quarters, they were also justly celebrated for extraordinary proof when slaughtered,—resembling thus

closely their descendants of the present day. One trifling difference is alone worth recording,—the horns of the old Tees-water breed were rather longer, and turned gaily upwards.

From all the information which can be collected, it appears that the breed of cattle thus described, was crossed with, and probably improved by, importations from the Continent. Several spirited individuals, at that early period, had devoted much attention to the improvement of the breed of cattle then prevailing in the counties of Durham and York, and, amongst others, Sir William St. Quintin, of Scampston, imported cows and bulls from Holland. In due time, the produce of these animals was more widely diffused, and, crossed with the best stocks of the country, which possessed the same characteristics, became distinguished as the *Tees-water Short-horns*, uniting, in a wonderful degree, good grazing and dairy qualities. Each advance towards improvement naturally stimulated to increased exertion, and it appears that,

among the rival candidates for this description of fame, Mr. Milbank, of Barningham, stood pre-eminent. About eighty-five years have elapsed since Mr. Milbank devoted his attention to this branch of rural economy, and certain circumstances connected with his proceedings are on record, which prove that he had made no mean advances towards a successful completion of his views of improvement. For instance, a five years old ox, bred and fed by this gentleman, weighed, when slaughtered, four quarters one hundred and fifty stones, of fourteen pounds to the stone, and tallow sixteen stones. A cow, also bred from his stock, and at that time the property of Mr. Sharter, of Chilton, slaughtered when twelve years old, having produced several calves, weighed upwards of one hundred and ten stones.* This cow was the daughter of the *old Studley bull*, one of the most

* It may be proper, in this place, to remark, that whenever, throughout this work, the weight per stone is stated, the stone of fourteen pounds is intended, unless another rate of computation be particularly expressed.

celebrated ancestors of the improved Short-horns. He is described to the author by a person who often saw him, to have possessed wonderful girth and depth of fore-quarters, very short legs, a neat frame, and light offal. He was the grand-sire of *Dalton Duke*, bred by Mr. Charge, and sold by him, at the then high price of fifty guineas, to Messrs. Maynard and Wetherell, in whose possession he served cows, at half-a-guinea each. From the old Studley bull are also descended *William* and *Richard Barker's* and *Mr. Hill's bulls*; all animals of the highest reputation in their day, and the originals of the improved Short-horns.

These circumstances forcibly prove that Mr. Milbank must have possessed a very valuable stock of cattle, even at that early period.

It has already been stated, that Sir William St. Quintin imported several cows and bulls from Holland; and it may be added, that from him Sir James Pennyman, who possessed estates in the counties of York,

Durham, and Northumberland, and was desirous to extend this breed further north, obtained the cattle necessary for his purpose. From these he presented six cows and a bull to Mr. George Snowden, of Hurworth, his tenant, who was on very familiar terms with his landlord, and frequently attended him on his sporting excursions to Newmarket. In the mean time, a person near Hurworth, having in his possession a cow which there was every reason to believe was bred from some of the stock which had been imported, she was on this account, and from her superior form and quality of flesh, thought worthy to be introduced to Snowden's bull, and her produce afterwards became an object of celebrity as the bull *Hubbock*. This cow, when removed from her usual pasture in the highways to good land near Darlington, became so fat that she did not again breed, and was consequently slaughtered. Her son evinced the same extraordinary disposition to fatten, and became useless; which was also the case with *Bolingbroke*,

and several of Mr. Colling's best bulls, until he adopted the plan of keeping them in the lowest possible condition. It would serve no purpose, but to fatigue the reader, and to embarrass this account, if much time were bestowed in remarking upon the animals which constituted the intermediate links of connexion between Mr. Milbank's original stock, and that of Mr. C. Colling. It shall therefore suffice to remark, that in Mr. C. Colling's bull *Foljambe*, the Barningham and Hubbock's blood were united; that this bull was the great grand-sire of *Comet*, and rendered, by Mr. C. Colling's own account, the most essential service to his stock. Should the reader feel desirous to trace the pedigrees of the animals here mentioned, he is referred to "*Coates's Herd Book*," where every particular is faithfully stated.

From the time of Mr. Milbank, till the period when Mr. C. Colling commenced breeding, it appears, then, that considerable care had been bestowed on the Tees;

water cattle, and, even if evidence to that point were wanting, which it is not, it would not be unreasonable to suppose they possessed considerable merit. But, on this head, the public are not left to wander in the unsatisfactory mazes of supposition: there exists authentic evidence of facts, which place the Short-horns on a level, at least, with any of their rivals, howsoever high the antiquity they boast, or the degree of excellence which they may have claimed.

In order to render the correctness of this assertion apparent, it is proposed to give some account of the pretensions of the Tees-water breed at the early period alluded to; and subsequently to add such particulars of the improved Short-horns, as may be deemed necessary to the establishment of the fact of their continued excellence; and having done so, the candid reader will make that award which it is the object of these pages, by all honest means, to obtain.

Some particulars, upon which the claims of the Tees-water breed are founded, may be stated as follows :—

Upwards of forty years ago, Sir Henry Grey, of Howick, bred two oxen, which were fed by Mr. Waistel, and at six years old weighed one hundred and thirty stones each, their proof being most extraordinary.

A heifer, three years old, by a grandson of the old Studley bull, bred by Miss Allen, of Grange, fed on hay and grass alone, weighed ninety stones.

Two three years old steers, bred also by the same lady, and fed in a similar manner, weighed respectively ninety-two and ninety-six stones. These steers were by James Brown's red bull, also a descendant of the Studley bull.

Mr. Waistel's four years old steer, by Masterman's bull, the grand-sire of Hubbock, weighed one hundred and ten stones.

A four years old steer, bred by James Simpson, of Aycliffe, and fed by Mr. C. Colling, was slaughtered at Sunderland, by Mr. J. Cripp, having been fed on hay and turnips alone. His weight, one hundred and thirty-five stones.

About the same time, a five years old heifer, bred by the Bishop of Durham, weighed one hundred and ten stones.

A cow from Mr. Hill's stock, slaughtered in Northumberland, weighed one hundred and twenty-seven stones.

An ox, one of six bought by Mr. Wais-tel in Northumberland, yielded twenty-six stones of tallow.

Mr. George Coates slaughtered a heifer, by Snowden's bull, the sire of Hubbock, fed on turnips and hay, which weighed sixty-eight stones, at two years and two months old.

A steer and heifer, bred by Mr. Ralph Watson, of Manfield, and grazed by Mr. Hill, of Blackwell, weighed, at four years old, within a few pounds, one hundred and ten stones each.

An own sister to Mr. Coates's bull Badsworth, having run with her dam, and lived as she did, without cake or corn, met with an accident, and died at seven months old. She weighed thirty-four stones.

A steer, by a brother to the above heifer, three years and two months old, weighed one hundred and five stones; and another steer, by the same bull, exactly three years old, weighed ninety-five stones. Both were kept as common store beasts, till two years old.

An ox, bred by Mr. Hill, of Blackwell, slaughtered at six years old, weighed one hundred and fifty-one stones ten pounds; tallow, eleven stones.

23

The Howick red ox, slaughtered at seven years old, weighed one hundred and fifty-two stones nine pounds; tallow, sixteen stones seven pounds.

The Howick mottled ox, slaughtered at seven years old, weighed one hundred and fifty-two stones eight pounds; tallow, sixteen stones.

Mr. Charge's ox, slaughtered at seven years old, weighed one hundred and sixty-eight stones ten pounds; tallow, thirteen stones.

Thus much for the Tees-water cattle, the *originals* of the improved Short-horns.—It would be easy to multiply instances of the good qualities, from time to time evinced by them, but it can neither be desirable to distract and weary the attention of the reader, nor does the establishment of the fact require such accumulation of proof; and when to the circumstances here stated, it is added, on testimony unimpeachable, and experience most matured, that the ani-

mals, respecting which particulars have been given, were in themselves extremely good, ripe in points, possessing fine symmetry, and light offal, surely it is justifiable to conclude, the originals of the improved Short-horns were long deservedly celebrated, as a valuable stock; that, therefore, their descendants *are not* a breed, as to excellence, of *yesterday*, liable and likely to *degenerate to-morrow*; but that they possess the important advantage of being descended from a long line of animals, in which existed, in an eminent degree, the good points which are now admired in themselves.

From this breed of cattle, possessing such recommendations, Mr. Charles Colling selected his original stock. The field upon which he made arrangements to carry on operations under the controul of well-digested principles, had been occupied by parties who, entertaining less extensive views, had been enabled to make only partial, and, comparatively, trifling advances. But when he summoned to his aid the cool

calculating skill, the searching sagacity, and the ripened experience, which it appears he could command, it is not to be deemed singular that inferior competitors receded, and he remained to exercise the powers, and profit by the suggestions, of his well informed mind.

Mr. C. Colling's rule of proceeding was simple, but efficacious. Disregarding popular prejudices, he adhered to a system which he conceived to be correct, and waited patiently for the result. His constant aim was to combine the greatest inclination to fatten, with the most correct form; and the numberless bulls which he let at unprecedented prices, together with the items of his sale catalogue, which will be hereafter given, furnish ample proof that he did not proceed far as a breeder before public approval was most decidedly with him.

In testimony of the estimation in which Mr. C. Colling's abilities and exertions were held, the following copy of an inscription upon a valuable piece of plate, pre-

sented to him by the breeders of his own and the neighbouring counties, may not prove unacceptable to the reader:—

“PRESENTED TO
MR. CHARLES COLLING,
THE GREAT IMPROVER OF THE SHORT-HORNED
BREED OF CATTLE,
BY THE BREEDERS
WHOSE NAMES ARE ANNEXED,
AS A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE DUE FOR THE BENEFIT
THEY HAVE DERIVED FROM HIS JUDGMENT,
AND ALSO AS A TESTIMONY OF THEIR
ESTEEM FOR HIM AS A MAN.
1810.”

To this inscription are annexed the names of fifty of the most eminent breeders in the north.

Happy would the author feel, could he transfer to his pages portraits of the animals which, bred by Mr. C. Colling, established his pretensions to judicious selection; and next to that, it would afford him pleasure, did he possess the requisite knowledge, to give such description of them as would convey some faint idea of their merit. But

the circumstances of the case preclude him from both, and it only remains that he state faithfully such particulars respecting the stock in question, as have come to his knowledge; particulars which, if they convey not full satisfaction to the enthusiastic breeder and amateur, will yet carry conviction to the more cautious, and less sanguine, calculator upon intrinsic value.

The first animal to which the attention of the reader is directed, as a modern specimen of the Short-horns, is the ox bred by Mr. C. Colling, and well known to the public as the *Durham Ox*, having been exhibited as a prodigy all over the island, by that title. For several particulars which will be here given, respecting this and some other animals, the author is indebted to a reference to Mr. Bailey's "*Agriculture of the County of Durham*."

The Durham ox was got by Mr. C. Colling's bull *Favourite*, the sire of *Comet*, and was calved in the year 1796. His form and quality of flesh indicated that propen-

sity to fatten, for which he was afterwards so much distinguished. At five years old, he was not only covered thick with fat upon the principal points, but his whole carcase in a manner loaded with it, and he was deemed so wonderful an animal, that he was purchased, to be exhibited as a show, by Mr. Bulmer, of Harmby, near Bedale, in February, 1801, for £140. At that time he was thought to weigh one hundred and sixty-eight stones, his live weight being two hundred and sixteen stones, and this extraordinary weight did not arise from his superior size, but from the excessive ripeness of his points.

Mr. Bulmer having obtained a proper carriage for his conveyance, travelled with him five weeks, and then sold him and the carriage, at Rotheram, to Mr. John Day, on the 14th May, 1801, for £250.

On the 14th May, Mr. Day could have
 sold him for£525
 On the 13th June, for£1000
 On the 8th July, for£2000

These prices are strong proofs of his superior excellence.

Mr. Day travelled with him nearly six years, through the principal parts of England and Scotland, till at Oxford, on the 19th February, 1807, the ox by accident dislocated his hip bone, and continued in that state till the 15th April, when he was obliged to be killed, and notwithstanding he must have lost considerably in weight during these eight weeks of illness, yet his carcase weighed

	<i>Stones</i>	<i>lb.</i>
Four quarters	165	12
Tallow.....	11	2
Hide	10	2

This was his weight at eleven years old, under all the disadvantages of six years travelling in a jolting carriage, and eight weeks of painful illness. Had he been kept quietly at *Ketton*, and fed until seven years old, there is little doubt but he would have weighed more than he did at ten years old, at which age Mr. Day states his live weight to have been nearly thirty-four hun-

dred weight, or two hundred and seventy stones, from which, if fifty be taken for offal, it leaves the weight of the carcase two hundred and twenty stones.

In the year 1808, Mr. Bailey informs us he saw, at Mr. Mason's, of Chilton, a cow, also by Mr. C. Colling's bull Favourite, not less remarkable, in point of fat, than the ox. At that time the depth of fat, from the rumps to the hips, in a perpendicular position, was not less than twelve inches; upon her loins and crop, not less than ten inches; and the shoulder score at least nine inches thick.

Mr. Robert Colling's heifer, which, like the ox, was exhibited as a curiosity, was estimated, at four years old, to weigh one hundred and thirty stones.

This gentleman sold, in Darlington market, on the 18th April, 1808, a two years old steer for £22, supposed to weigh sixty-three stones, the price of fat stock being at that time seven shillings per stone.

31

At Mr. Nesham's, of Houghton-le-Spring, Mr. Bailey saw a steer, twenty-five months old (bred from Mr. Mason's stock), completely covered with fat over his whole carcase, and supposed to be the fattest steer of his age ever seen. Butchers estimated him to weigh seventy-five stones. Neither of these animals were of large size, and would not have weighed above forty stones, had they been no fatter than are usually killed for the markets.

Mr. Wetherill, of Field-house, sold at the fair in Darlington, held on the first Monday in March, 1810, two steers, under three years old, for £47 10s. each. The price of fat cattle, at this fair, was about ten shillings per stone.

Mr. Arrowsmith, of Ferryhill, who fed his Short-horns at two years old, furnished the following particulars of the prices which he obtained from the butchers, viz.—

In 1801, sold four for £25 0s. each, two steers and two heifers.

In 1802, sold six for £17 10s. each, three steers and three heifers.

1803, sold four for £17 0s. each.

1804, sold six for £18 10s. each.

1805, sold six for £17 10s. each, two steers and four heifers.

1806, sold four for £16 0s. each.

1807, sold eight for £18 0s. each.

1808, sold eight for £19 0s. each.

The time for selling from the beginning to the latter end of May.

They were managed as follows :—In the first winter they got straw in a fold-yard, with nearly as many turnips as they could eat. In May they were turned to grass ; in November put to turnips through the winter, and turned out to grass the first week in May.

A twin heifer, belonging to Mr. Arrow-smith, calved the last week in April, being kept the first year as the common stock, was entered for a sweepstakes to be showed in June, when two years old, and was then put to grass, with other stock of the same

age, in the usual pasture. In November she was estimated to weigh twenty-eight stones, when she was put to ruta бага, and hay and oil cake, of which she eat four hundred weight, with two bushels of bean-meal, and one bushel of barley. She went to grass on the first of May, and had, from that period, neither cake nor corn. On the 23d July, it was the unanimous opinion of the best judges, that she weighed fifty-eight or sixty stones, having gained thirty stones in thirty weeks.

In April, 1808, Mr. Bailey saw at Mr. Arrowsmith's eight yearlings, intended for the course of feeding described as adopted by that gentleman. They were *very lean*, not more than fifteen stones each, and had they been offered for sale in a fair, no person, unacquainted with the breed, would have given more for them than £4 10s. or £5 per head.

This testimony of Mr. Bailey's is highly important, at once refuting the opinion of Hereford breeders, that no stock can at-

tain such valuable early maturity without extravagant rearing.

Mr. Walton, of Middleton-in-Tees-dale, had been (in 1808) in the habit of selling his steers at two years and a quarter old, for £20 to £30 each, their weight being from fifty to fifty-four stones.

His mode of keeping is as follows :—
The cows seldom calve sooner than April ; the calves get new milk for the first three weeks ; after that a moderate quantity of scalded skimmed milk, mixed with oil cake boiled in water, about two quarts of each, along with good hay, for about three weeks ; after which they do very well in the pastures, without any kind of hand feeding, until the latter end of November, when they are treated in the same way as Mr. Arrow-smith's, and never get either cake or corn.

Mr. Mason, of Chilton, in the course of an experiment to ascertain the weight of beef gained by the food given (turnips),

35

found three steers, under three years old, to have gained twenty stones each in twenty weeks. The three animals averaged seventy stones each.

In 1806, Mr. Nesham's steer, three years and a half old, obtained the premium offered by the Durham Agricultural Society for that description of animal. His weight was, four quarters ninety-six stones one pound and a half; tallow, eleven stones seven pounds; hide, eight stones.

And now, taking leave of Mr. Bailey, some facts will be given from other authentic sources.

A steer, bred by Mr. Simpson, of Aycliffe, and fed by Mr. C. Colling, on grass, hay, and turnips, weighed, when slaughtered, at four years old, one hundred and thirty-five stones.

Mr. Charles Colling's heifer, by Favourite, in the same year he had the Durham

ox, weighed, at three years old, one hundred stones, within a few pounds.

A heifer, by Mr. Coates's bull Houghton, slaughtered at York, when five years old, weighed ninety-nine stones six pounds.

A cow, by the same bull, bred by Mr. Foljambe, and slaughtered at Sheffield, when twelve years old, weighed one hundred stones, within five pounds. Both these animals appeared very small.

Major Rudd, of Marton-in-Cleveland, obtained the premium offered by the Cleveland Agricultural Society, in 1811, for the best steer, under three years old, fed on vegetable food. The steer he exhibited was sold to the butcher for ten shillings per stone, and slaughtered when three years and thirteen days old: the weight of his four quarters ninety-six stones.

Mr. Robertson, of Ladykirk, near Berwick-upon-Tweed, has furnished the fol-

lowing particulars of animals bred and fed by him almost entirely on vegetable food :—

1794.—An ox, four years and ten months old, four quarters one hundred and forty-five stones three pounds ; tallow, twenty-four stones seven pounds.

A steer, not four years old, four quarters one hundred and six stones ; tallow, nineteen stones seven pounds.

1814.—A steer, three years and nine months old, four quarters one hundred and one stones ; tallow, fifteen stones.

1815.—A steer, three years and eleven months old, four quarters one hundred and twelve stones seven pounds ; tallow, twenty-six stones.

A heifer, three years and eight months old, four quarters eighty-nine stones.

1817.—A steer, three years and two months old, four quarters ninety-five stones ten pounds ; tallow, seventeen stones ten pounds.

1822.—An ox, four years and a half old, four quarters one hundred and thirty-five stones ; tallow, twenty-one stones.

Own brother to the above, three years and a half old, four quarters one hundred and thirty-three stones ; tallow, twenty-one stones.

A steer, three years and ten months old, four quarters one hundred and twenty-four stones ; tallow, seventeen stones.

A steer, three years and eight months old, four quarters one hundred and twelve stones ; tallow not weighed.

Robert Bower, Esq. of Welham, near Malton, has bred and slaughtered the seven undermentioned animals :—

1816.—A steer, three years and nine months old, four quarters one hundred and twenty-three stones ten pounds ; tallow, twelve stones seven pounds.

1816.—A steer, wanting seven weeks of two years old, four quarters fifty-six stones one pound; tallow, seven stones three pounds.

A steer, one year, eight months, and seventeen days old, four quarters sixty-one stones seven pounds; tallow, seven stones eight pounds.

1817.—A steer, three years and three months old, four quarters one hundred and six stones; tallow, twelve stones two pounds.

1819.—A steer, three years and one month old, four quarters ninety-nine stones thirteen pounds; tallow, twelve stones one pound.

1822.—A steer, three years old, four quarters one hundred and seven stones thirteen pounds; tallow, fifteen stones.

A steer, two years old, four quarters eighty-two stones eight pounds; tallow, twelve stones eleven pounds.

A cow, bred by Sir J. Ramsden, Bart. was slaughtered in 1822, when eleven years

old. Her four quarters weighed one hundred and one stones ; tallow, eleven stones eleven pounds.

A six years old ox, bred by Sir Rowland Winn, Bart. slaughtered in 1808, weighed, four quarters, one hundred and sixty-nine stones ; tallow, twenty-six stones eleven pounds.

A steer, bred by Colonel Cooke, of Owston, near Doncaster, fed on potatoes and straw, weighed, when slaughtered, two years and twenty-two days old, four quarters seventy-two stones.

A twin heifer, bred by J. Hutchinson, Esq. of Stockton-on-Tees, fed in the most ordinary manner, was sold the day she became three years old, for £38, and two days afterwards for £40. Her four quarters weighed seventy stones.

Rufus, a bull bred by the same gentleman, after serving, in his fourth season, the extraordinary number of one hundred

and fifty cows, was slaughtered, having been fed four months. His four quarters weighed one hundred and twenty-two stones; tallow, twelve stones.

Sir Charles Morgan's four years old ox, by Furioso, weighed, four quarters one hundred and forty-seven stones.

Mr. Champion's bull, exhibited in London when twenty-two months old, weighed alive, sixteen hundred weight, two quarters, three pounds.

Here the author conceives he may with propriety conclude his account of instances, not because his materials are exhausted, but fearful he has already too long intruded on the reader's patience. What has been adduced is sufficient, it is presumed, to establish the pretensions of the improved Short-horns, as well as of their originals, to the valuable properties of obtaining early maturity, and great weights, upon such food as cannot possibly be deemed to possess forcing qualities, but is adapted and

applied throughout the kingdom to rearing stock generally, and to no stock more liberally than to the improved Herefords, which besides, in many, if not in most instances, possess the advantage of taking the whole of the dam's milk, so long as she will yield any. It would have been more agreeable, it is confessed, to have specified particularly, in every case, the description of food. But that point is ascertained in a sufficient number, and where the information is wanting, the weights are so great, and the maturity is so early, that surprise is excited at their attainment by *any* course of feeding.

It therefore only remains, the pretensions of Short-horns having been established as a good grazing stock, that a few words be added on their utility for the dairy; a quality which, lightly as it may be regarded in the county of Hereford, has, notwithstanding, been found, especially in the late distressing times, to put an end to the clamour of many a scolding housewife, whose philosophy was unequal to support her under

the mortification of returning from market without the luxuries of tea and sugar in one corner of her basket,—the unhappy result of having no dairy produce.

An opinion has gone forth, and is zealously propagated by Hereford breeders, that no animals which are greatly inclined to carry flesh, can give much milk. Some of their reasoning is plausible, but very frequently inapplicable, and invariably founded on experience *at home*. It is not by argument, however, that this question will be decided; and as the author presumes to differ from these gentlemen on this point, it will be proper to state his *facts*, which appear to him far preferable to *theories*, in order to justify his rejection of the opinion of men otherwise, perhaps, wiser than himself.

It is not here meant to deny that the useful quality of giving much milk, has not in certain instances, for a time, been lost, by persevering in a favourite line of blood, in which that quality did not predominate,

and by other causes which it is unnecessary to enumerate. It is only contended, that the two properties of good milking, and a disposition to carry flesh, may be united, where both are duly attended to; and although the very great quantity of the former, which is obtained from the ordinary breed of Short-horns, will not frequently be drawn from the improved breed, still the deficiency in quantity will be more than atoned for by the superior quality,—an increased richness in the milk being one of the improvements which has been accomplished in the breed in question.

As some reflections may, perhaps, be made upon the selection of one stock, to afford instances of the improved Short-horns possessing valuable dairy qualifications, it may not be improper, in this place, to disclaim any intention to favour a particular stock. In collecting the facts which these pages contain, no trifling trouble has been experienced; and the author having made known his intentions as widely as his opportunities would allow, it became neces-

sary for him to wait the pleasure of such gentlemen as should condescend to communicate with him, and to avail himself of the communications which reached him, without any reference to those he might hope for. The instances which are given as to milk, were obtained by himself on the spot; and though he would gladly have included any others, had they been furnished, it appears to him that no trifling force is afforded to his argument, by the circumstance of the cases which are set forth being derived from one stock,—irrefragable proof being thus furnished that they are not solitary instances, but happening in the regular course.

The cows recorded, are the property of J. Whitaker, Esq. of Greenholme, near Otley, and are of the most esteemed blood. They have given, and give, twice a-day, as follows :—

Yellow Rose, at three years old, four gallons two quarts.

Yellow Rose, at four years old, four gallons three quarts.

Red Daisy, four gallons.

Magdalena, upwards of four gallons.

Wildair, four gallons.

Western Lady, three gallons two quarts.

Venus, sixteen years old, three gallons one quart.

Alfrede, three gallons.

Adela, first calf, three gallons.

Yarm, three gallons.

Moss Rose, at all times a moving mountain of flesh, two gallons. All wine measure.

These cows are steady milkers, possessing great inclination to fatten, and Mr. Whitaker cannot be too highly complimented on his successful exertions to combine the two qualities. The remainder of his stock will be found by no means contemptible as milkers; but it is thought unnecessary to remark upon any ordinary quantities.

Without entering further into particulars, this subject may properly be dismissed with a remark of Mr. C. Colling's, that the *Duchess* and *Daisy* tribes, with whose merit, as grazier's stock, the public are well acquainted, were all good milkers, possessing that valuable *union* of qualities of which it is thus obvious every breeder of Short-horns may avail himself, who chooses to make it the object of his care.

Having thus drawn his account of this celebrated breed to a close, it only remains for the author to remind his readers, that it is of the *improved* Short-horns he writes, and not of the general herd of cattle, which are sold as Short-horns, from the northern districts; and to those who, in their ignorance of the improved breed, have been forward to condemn them, unseen and unknown, he cannot, probably, recommend a better course than that of perusing the following catalogues, from which valuable information may be gleaned, until opportunity shall be afforded for personal inspection.

The following particulars are extracted from the sale catalogues of Messrs. Charles and Robert Colling.

From the catalogue of Mr. C. Colling :—

COWS.

	Guineas.		Guineas.
<i>Cherry 11 years</i> Lot 1.....	83	Lot 10.....	410 <i>Lily 3 years</i>
2.....	35	11.....	140
<i>Peregr 5 years</i> 3.....	170	12.....	70
<i>Cochet 5 years</i> 4.....	400	13.....	120
<i>Celina - 5 years</i> 5.....	200	14.....	45
6.....	130	15.....	70
<i>Lady - 14 years</i> 7.....	206	16.....	60
<i>Young Comet 3</i> 8.....	210	17.....	170
9.....	150		

BULLS.

	Guineas.		Guineas.
<i>Comet 6 years</i> Lot 18.....	1000*	Lot 24.....	80
19.....	55	25.....	110 <i>Alfred,</i>
20.....		26.....	105
<i>Major 9 years</i> 21.....	200	27.....	63
22.....	145	28.....	76
<i>Petrach 2 years</i> 23.....	365	29.....	50

* The bull *Comet*. One thousand six hundred guineas were afterwards offered for him.

49

BULL CALVES.

	Guineas.		Guineas.
Lot 30.....	50	Lot 34.....	15
<i>Young Favorite</i> 31.....	140	35..	60
<i>Geirse</i> — 32.....	130	36.....	170 <i>Cecil,</i>
<i>Pis Dimple</i> 33.....	90		

HEIFERS.

	Guineas.		Guineas.
Lot 37.....	105	Lot 41.....	132
38.....	183	42.....	136
39.....	101	43.....	35
40.....	206		

HEIFER CALVES.

	Guineas.		Guineas.
Lot 44.....	106	Lot 47	50
45..... ..	50	48.....	25
46.....	75		

From the catalogue of Mr. Robert Colling :—

COWS.

	Guineas.		Guineas.
Lot 3.....	78	Lot 9.....	141
4.....	73	10.....	31
5.....	34	11.....	70
6.....	50	12.....	143
7.....	176	13.....	62
8.....	66	14.....	37

COWS—(CONTINUED).

	<i>Guineas.</i>		<i>Guineas.</i>
Lot 15.....	210	Lot 26.....	76
16.....	160	27.....	78
17.....	151	28.....	156
18.....	190	29.....	190
19.....	195	30.....	160
20.....	300	31.....	51
21.....	72	32.....	331
22.....	111	33.....	105
23.....	370	34.....	90
24.....	32	35.....	43
25.....	59	36.....	50

HEIFERS.

FROM SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS OLD.

	<i>Guineas.</i>		<i>Guineas.</i>
Lot 37.....	48	Lot 46.....	28
38.....	145	47.....	42
39.....	71	48.....	30
40.....	54	49.....	100
41.....	100	50.....	123
42.....	47	51.....	55
43.....	133	52.....	110
44.....	52	53.....	80
45.....	56		

BULLS.

	<i>Guineas.</i>		<i>Guineas.</i>
Lot 54.....	50	Lot 58.....	185
55.....	72	59.....	621
56.....	270	61.....	145

BULL CALVES.

	Guineas.		Guineas.
Lot 62.....	102	Lot 64.....	201
63.....	140	65.....	270

M^r Bates' Sale at Turkleavington May.
9th 1850 = Six distinct tribes or families.

Duchep

14 head — £1627. 10

Oxford

13. Head — £894-12

Waterloo

6 Head — 357. 0

Cambridge Rose

3 head — 147-0

Widneyes

25 head £1203. 6

Foggathorpe

48 head.
£4558-1. 0

Earl Ducie

bought the following at the above Sale

Duchep 55 — 59. and 64 ~~£4400-0~~
1314-0

Oxford 6 and 11 ^{1/2}

955-10-0

4th Duke of York ~~£955-0-0~~

I saw the same Breasts sold at Portworthy
in 1853 — for £2052-0-0 — after the Earl had
purchased 2 head of Stock from them, at
£3192-0. — ~~Sturges~~

AN ENQUIRY
AS TO
THE VALUE
OF THE
IMPROVED SHORT-HORNS,
FOR GENERAL PURPOSES,
PLACED IN COMPETITION
WITH
The Improved Herefords.

ter are sufficiently numerous to present to any person, desirous of combining the two qualities, the opportunity of selecting a stock productive for the dairy, and inferior to none for the grazier's use.

The state of the case, therefore, as to the Short-horns, judging from the instances adduced, is this :—They possess, in an eminent degree, the valuable quality of yielding a quantity of milk, more than adequate to the maintenance of their calves, and they continue to yield the same quantity long after the calves have ceased to require any support from their dams at all. Thus the breeder obtains a remuneration for the dam's food, whilst, at the same time, the profit of rearing a young stock is in gradual progression ; and, therefore, Short-horned cows do, during the period intermediate to slaughter, to use a common and applicable phrase, “ pay their way.”

Now, how stands the case with the Hefords, and what is the amount of their pretensions to accomplish this useful end?—

Experience fully justifies the assertion, that they are, for dairy purposes, the worst breed of cattle which ever came under the writer's notice; and it follows, upon this unquestionable fact, that, during many months of the year, they are solely employed in an unprofitable consumption of food. They produce calves, to which it is usually necessary to permit a range, almost unlimited in point of time, with the dams; for should the calves be weaned, the nurses become dry, notwithstanding this take place at a period when they experience a change from fodder in the house, to grass in the field. The cows thus giving neither the quantity of milk in the outset, nor yielding it with the constancy which distinguishes the Short-horns, the return to a Hereford breeder (except accident render it less) is a calf per cow for her twelve months maintenance; a calf which is of such tardy growth, that it is of necessity kept to a considerable age before it becomes advantageously marketable. This is supposing the calf to be reared; but in case it be intended for the butcher, a striking

SHORT-HORNS AND HEREFORDS.

IN the spirit of candour, but with the requisite degree of freedom, an enquiry will now be entered into, how far the improved Short-horns will bear a comparison with their rivals the Herefords? To this course the author has not resorted from any desire to *attack* the latter, but chiefly on *defensive* principles. He will now no further allude to the attempts made by certain persons to disparage the Short-horns, than merely by stating, that it is in consequence of these injudicious, and, as he thinks, unjust observations, that he has been induced to institute the present comparison.

In order to form an estimate of the utility of the two breeds, it scarcely appears necessary to state, that the value of cattle

depends upon the return which they make for the food consumed ; and the comparative value of any particular breed will therefore be ascertained by reference to the proportion of milk given, or their aptitude to take on fat, or the combination of these qualities. But it will be proper to remark, in the outset, that, after the time of weaning, both Short-horns and Herefords are kept in much the same manner, as to comfort and quality of food ; no difference, worthy of note, being known to exist, except as to the climates in which they are severally reared,—the Herefords chiefly possessing the advantages of the warmer midland and southern counties, the Short-horns being exposed to the chilling atmosphere of the north.

That Short-horned cows, of the improved breed, having high pedigrees, and the greatest tendency to fatten, not only give a sufficient, but, in many cases, an extraordinary, quantity of milk, the preceding account of that breed has satisfactorily shown ; and the instances of the lat-

inferiority is apparent, if attention be paid to the Short-horn, placed in similar circumstances. So great, indeed, is the superiority of the latter, at this early period, that in a number of instances where a Short-horn bull is used with Hereford cows, the calves are ascertained to be worth, for the butcher, ten shillings each more than pure Herefords, and this, be it remarked, where they are only allowed the milk of the Hereford dam, although so much larger than her thorough-bred produce would be. If this statement respecting the two breeds be correct, the Herefords, whatever their merits in other respects, must in this, at least, yield to the Short-horns.

In order to throw additional light on the subject, the modes of rearing the two breeds will be described. In most cases, the manner of rearing Short-horns is, with little variation, similar to that described by Mr. Bailey as adopted by Mr. Walton, of Middleton, the best commentary upon whose plan is conveyed in the statement of his having sold his steers so reared, at two

years and a quarter old, for from twenty to thirty pounds each, they never having, in any instance, been allowed oil cake or corn after weaning. Mr. Walton's management is thus described by Mr. Bailey : —“ During the first three weeks the calves have new milk ; after that a moderate quantity of scalded skimmed milk, mixed with oil cake boiled in water, about two quarts of each, with good hay, for three or four weeks longer ; after which they are turned to the pasture without any other hand feeding.” It is not intended to intimate that no other more expensive mode of rearing is ever adopted, in the case of a favourite calf, or occasionally from individual whim, or with particular motive ; but generally speaking, such is the mode of treatment of Short-horned calves, of the ox calves in particular.

On the other hand, the Herefords, which it is arranged shall calve, as nearly as possible, about November or December, have their calves regularly introduced to them in the morning and evening, and they,

with very few exceptions, take all the milk. The calves being very small, the milk given by each cow is often found sufficient for her offspring; but cases occur in every stock where calves run some risk of starving.—When the time arrives for turning out to grass, experience has dictated the propriety, in many instances, of permitting the calves to accompany the cows, which otherwise would then go nearly or quite dry. Thus, at the time when other breeds become most productive, and when their food is better than at any other season, they become useless; and no claim being made upon them, but for the exertion necessary in grazing, it is not surprising that, under so auspicious a state of things, they contrive to become very respectable in point of condition.

From persons hitherto ignorant of the existence of such a system, the enquiry naturally proceeds, how, in the mean time, the farmer's family is supplied with butter? If they consume butter, it is frequently purchased, except in cases, by no means of rare occurrence, where a cow of ano-

ther breed is kept for the family's supply. But the purchase of butter is not the worst consequence attending such a system. It is notorious, that persons who have from fifteen to twenty cows calving annually, purchase cheese for family consumption, supplied by districts in which another description of cattle is kept. Upon the whole, the result of much personal observation, and of the unreserved admission of the Hereford breeders, is, that, in their present state, their stock have not the shadow of a pretence to be esteemed even tolerable milkers, the few individual exceptions which occur, tending rather to excite astonishment, than to affect the authority of this conclusion. But it is not to the pure Herefords alone, that this objection applies : crossed with other breeds, they appear to possess a destructively contaminating influence, as the following case in point seems to prove. A friend of the author having purchased, at a high price, ten Yorkshire cows, great milkers, crossed them with a Hereford bull, hired from a first-rate breeder. The produce, of which a fair

proportion were females, proved to be entirely deficient in the milking property; and a similar experiment, with the same cows and another Hereford bull, made in the following year, was attended with the like disappointment and loss.

It is now proposed, as briefly as possible, to notice the arguments which are urged in favour of the Herefords, under their admitted deficiency as milkers.

It is asserted that the Herefords produce capital oxen, and most readily does the author subscribe to the truth of the assertion. But when it is added, that this circumstance is sufficient to atone for the absence of other qualities, and when it is intimated that a good milking breed must be deficient in this best characteristic of the Herefords, he no further acquiesces, and confidently refers to the Short-horns for complete refutation of such opinions.—That Hereford cows keep themselves in high condition, is a point also much insisted on, to which, under the circumstances,

more credit is attached than appears reasonable. The condition which most deserves approval, is that which is maintained under adverse circumstances, such as deep milking and ordinary food. But the Herefords being as well kept as the Short-horns, and giving little or no milk, whilst the latter are contributing plentifully to the pail, the credit to be derived from this high condition must be cautiously awarded, and not before due enquiry has been made, whether Short-horns, in their milk, are not as fat as the Herefords, when dry. It is certain that Short-horns carry such high condition, that the circumstance has given rise to the story of their being forced into it,—a story which is circulated from one breeder to another, with much mutual congratulation upon this easy manner of disposing of a rival's claims. Whilst on the subject of condition, it may be proper to notice a circumstance not unconnected with it. A rather eminent breeder of Herefords has expressed an opinion, that Short-horns, if put to feed with Herefords, under favourable circumstances, as to warmth and com-

fort, would be found to make a greater progress, but that under exposure to the inclemency of the winter, they would prove inferior. It would be very possible to advance arguments which would show that the question is not, which breed will best endure starvation, to which few, if any, cattle need be exposed, but which breed is capable of thriving under the means of management which the kingdom generally will be found to afford. In forming the opinion quoted, the Hereford breeder seems to have overlooked the important fact, that improved Short-horns have attained their highest degree of excellence in the very exposure, as to climate, which he has supposed them incapable of enduring; and the author can assure him, that on personal inspection repeatedly made, he has ascertained that the Short-horns possess no better accommodations in their colder climate, than the Herefords do in theirs, which is so much warmer. But, in truth, this opinion, like others which have been given, unfavourable to the Short-horns, is not founded upon experience or enquiry, but is to be ascribed

to the operation of local prejudice, which teaches, in the county of Hereford, that unless an animal possesses a thick, almost callous hide, covered with harsh hair, it must be delicate, and unable to endure exposure to the weather. The Short-horn, it is admitted, has in general a thinner skin than the Hereford; but that judge must be fastidious indeed, who objects to it, covering the quantity and quality of flesh which it does, and covered as it is, in winter and summer, by a profusion of hair, of itself almost as well calculated to keep out the cold as the thickest Hereford hide. But it is almost impossible to suppose that animals thriving, under ordinary circumstances, rapidly as the Short-horns do, will be peculiarly liable to suffer from external causes; and it may be questioned, whether it is not their peculiar skin, quantity of hair, and quality of flesh, all of which denote early maturity, which give them their decided superiority over the Herefords, in that valuable requisite; and so far from perceiving reason to admit the remark of the Hereford breeder to be correct, the author thinks a

change from their present warm quarters, to the cold of the north, would have the effect of delaying the Hereford's arrival at maturity to a still later period.

To attempt to assign particular qualifications to the Herefords collectively, would lead to error, because they will be found, on examination, to present exceptions numerous and glaring; but the author freely confesses that he has frequently greatly admired their oxen. Yet, reared, as calves, at the expense of a dam's milk, it is a considerable draw-back from their excellence, that it is so tardily matured; and a person called on to decide between the two breeds, unless he absolutely dismissed from his mind all calculations of profit, could not hesitate to prefer the Short-horn, which, under a similar course of keeping, will be as good at three, as the Hereford is at four years old.

It, in the course of the late discussions, to which this question of comparative merits gave rise, was boldly asserted, that

no animal is capable of attaining a profitable degree of ripeness, at the early ages which have been spoken of, without an allowance of food, for which it is impossible it can make an adequate return. It was also intimated, that breeders of Short-horns cannot exhibit *oxen* at all fit to be placed beside their rivals, and consequently they never attempt it. How far these remarks will bear the contradiction of facts, shall shortly appear.

In the first place, these are the observations of a Hereford breeder, who is considered to have pursued with judgment the steps of the late Mr. B. Tomkins, with whom, it is believed, the improved Herefords originated. To such an authority it is impossible not to defer, when he speaks of his own breed; and as his sentiments, thus positively stated, concur with those which the author's close observation of that breed have led him to entertain, this impossibility to attain profitable early maturity may be considered a settled point as to the Herefords. But in adopting the same

authority to decide on the capabilities of Short-horns, caution is necessary. Experience of any trial, upon which an opinion could be formed, must certainly be wanting; and in the absence of information, it is not probable the Hereford breeder will gratuitously give that credit to the Short-horns, to which he declares his own breed not entitled. Now, as the author would not demand that faith in the soundness of his own opinion, which he withholds from another, he is content to submit this question to be decided by a reference to facts; and in proof that the Short-horns are able to accomplish what it is admitted the Herefords are not, repeats a few, out of the many instances which he has stated, in his account of the Short-horns, to which the reader is referred, should he require additional proof.

A Short-horned steer of Major Rudd's, fed on vegetable food alone, was slaughtered when three years and thirteen days old. His four quarters weighed ninety-six

stones, and he being sold at ten shillings per stone, brought his owner £48.

Two three years old steers, bred by Miss Allen, of Grange, and fed on hay and grass alone, weighed respectively ninety-two and ninety-six stones. A three years old heifer, bred by the same lady, and fed in a similar manner, weighed ninety stones.

Mr. George Coates slaughtered a heifer, two years and two months old, fed on vegetable food, which weighed sixty-eight stones.

A Short-horned steer of Colonel Cooke's, fed on *potatoes and straw*, was slaughtered when two years and twenty-two days old. His four quarters weighed seventy-two stones.

It would be very possible for an ingenious disputant to waste much time and paper, by entering into calculations, in order to ascertain whether the animals above instanced would or would not have produced more

profit, if kept to the age to which a Hereford judge would relieve them; but so long as the advantages of a quick circulation of money are duly appreciated, and the odds of "two to one" are understood, such calculations will be only superfluous, applied to this subject. It is therefore conceived one statement of the Hereford breeder is disposed of.

Upon the question, whether the Short-horns are capable of producing good oxen? it appears unnecessary to advance much in proof of the affirmative. It might be believed, that the same breed which produced the Durham ox is capable of producing more; and if attention be paid to the capital Short-horned steers now continually exhibiting, it will be difficult to divest the Hereford breeder's assertion of the character of absurdity. There certainly does not appear any reason why a good steer should not go on to make a good ox also. But admitting that the circumstance upon which such opinion is founded, is correctly reported,—conceding the fact that few Short-

horns are exhibited as oxen,—is no adequate reason to be assigned? The true and substantial reason is this. Improved Short-horns arrive at such early maturity and size, that the time for their profitable conversion into money is arrived before they become oxen; and it is not probable any person will keep them the requisite time, merely for the satisfaction of encountering a six or seven years old Hereford ox, whose owner may think him at length fitted, at that age, to exhibit his ancient forehead in a Smithfield Christmas cattle show.

Whatever may be the other imperfections of this undertaking; however unskilled the author shall prove himself in its management, there is one circumstance upon which he reflects with considerable satisfaction, and that is this;—that in all cases of importance, where he offers his opinion upon the comparative merits of the two breeds, he has been enabled to show its reasonableness by reference to matters, not of opinion, but of fact; and in the course of the discussion of the question now at

issue, it is conceived the following extract from a letter addressed to the editor of the *Farmer's Journal*,* may be appropriately introduced :—

“ *Dalkeith, Mid Lothian,*

“ *Jan. 12th, 1824.*

“ SIR,—I observed in your paper of the 22d December last, that an interesting exhibition of live stock had taken place at Smithfield; the age and weight of some, you state as follows :—

“ A Hereford ox, six years old, weighing one hundred and ninety-nine stones six pounds.

“ A ditto, three years and nine months, weighing one hundred and forty-three stones two pounds.

“ In the same paper you take notice of some exhibition of a similar kind in this quarter.

* *Farmer's Journal*, No. 854, Jan. 26, 1824.

“ In reference thereto, I beg to state, that Mr. John Rennie, of Phantassie, produced at the show of fat cattle, before the East Lothian United Agricultural Society, in November last (of which I had the honour of being one of the judges), six steers of the pure Short-horn or Tees-water breed, from eighteen to twenty months old, for which the first premium for fat and symmetry was awarded. Three of the best he is keeping on for another year, to ascertain the improvement they will make, and the other three were sold to a friend of mine in Edinburgh ; the dead weight, or four quarters, of one of these weighed one hundred and eighteen stones one pound.

“ The same gentleman presented at the Highland Society’s competition of fat stock, in November last, several of the same breed, which also carried the premiums for symmetry and fat. Two of these I purchased, viz.—one aged two years and four months, four quarters weighing one hundred and fifty-three stones seven pounds ; and one aged three years and six months,

four quarters weighing one hundred and sixty-nine stones seven pounds. The last mentioned had (besides) thirty stones one pound of rough fat, all Smithfield weight.

“ The country is much indebted to Mr. Rennie, for the indefatigable attention he has paid to this particular breed of cattle, in that an equal weight and quality can be produced in the market, in little more than half the time of many other long celebrated kinds of stock.

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ WILLIAM PLUMMER.”

Before this extract is dismissed from the reader's notice, let him apply the following test to the Hereford breeder's position and objection, and himself decide upon their title to public regard :—

Stones lb.

A Hereford ox, six years old,
weighed 199 6

A yearling Short-horned steer. 118 1

A Hereford ox, three years and
nine months old 143 2

Stones lb.

A Short-horned steer, two years
and four months old . . . 153 7

It cannot now be necessary to trespass much longer on the reader's attention, by dwelling upon a topic which it is presumed has been already pretty fully illustrated; and it appears sufficient to refer to the accounts already given of such Short-horns as have been slaughtered as oxen, for satisfactory evidence that in that class also, their merit is equally conspicuous as in every other.

In undertaking a work of this description, the author is convinced he must state the whole truth or nothing, and consequently feels assured that he shall incur the displeasure of Hereford breeders; but, however he may lament this circumstance, the subject is of so great importance, that he must patiently endure their disapprobation. His statements, if untrue, may easily be controverted; if true, they entitle him to escape reprehension, although the dic-

tates of self-interest may exclude from him the hope of approval. He admits the Hereford cattle are excellent to *purchase*, and has no doubt they answer the *grazier's* purpose well; but they appear to him a bad stock to *breed*, from the circumstances of their late maturity, and the cows withholding a plentiful supply of milk, the only possible recompence for such delay. Were graziers in the habit of reasoning in the following terms, the case would be altered : —“ We bought three years old Short-horns yesterday, equally good as your four years old Herefords. They were bred from cows which have, besides, proved profitable for the dairy. Your cows have done nothing for you in that respect, you have expended an additional year's food upon the steers, and we will therefore give you an extra price, for it is your due.” Until graziers adopt such, or similar language, and act upon it, Herefords appear an unprofitable stock to breed.

It may be objected, that Short-horns, a year more forward than their rivals, must

have consumed more food. It is believed there is not *any* truth in this objection ; but if the most ample allowances are made on this account, it is certain they cannot consume an extra quantity, adequate to a year's consumption of a beast rising four years old ; whilst against the extra quantity, if any, is to be placed the advantage of bringing the same weight of beef to market a year earlier than otherwise.

Much has been written, more than any person has been justified in asserting, respecting the high keep bestowed upon the Short-horns. A few instances of breeders, with a laudable spirit of competition, forcing animals to an extraordinary degree of fatness, have been seized on, and applied with avidity to prove that such is the general mode of managing this stock ; and, to keep up the delusion, it has even been gravely stipulated in the terms of a challenge, that the Short-horned *cows* should not be allowed *milk*. Such a course of conduct, however differently intended, the author conceives to convey the highest compliment to

the Short-horns. It proves that they are too formidable for the ordinary fair and candid mode of encounter, and that they furnish a sufficiency of milk for even such an extravagant purpose.

The last important comparison which the author will make, regards *temper*; and on this subject he apprehends no difference of opinion. The Short-horns are uniformly docile, and gentle in the extreme, the bulls scarcely ever becoming mischievous, and the cows and heifers permitting access under all circumstances, and for every needful purpose. The Herefords are the very reverse. It is a common circumstance for a Hereford bull to be regarded as performing the important duties of a watch dog. Although confined in the house, his instant roaring declares the approach of a stranger; and his attendant is but too frequently exposed to dangers, on which custom and strong nerves may, in time, enable a master to reflect without experiencing great uneasiness. When a heifer of this breed calves, an assemblage of all the forces in

and around the farm yard is frequently necessary ; and these, aided by pitchforks, and other weapons capable of conveying equally forcible arguments, succeed at length in compelling a reluctant and sullen submission. The disagreeable effects of this vicious temper, as regards the servants exposed to it, need not be pointed out ; and it is frequently a main cause why some animals thrive very indifferently.

On minor points of difference between the breeds, the author has abstained from remark, because they are, properly speaking, only matters of opinion, and the question before the public relates to utility alone. That utility being ascertained, the author submits that his comparative estimate may be concluded, without an attempt to enquire how far the peculiar form of the Short-horns contains more or less of absolute beauty than that of the Herefords. Indeed, he despairs of being able to reconcile the Hereford breeders to a form so very rare among their stock, viz. *a fat carcase, with a well replenished udder.*

Upon the whole, the result of patient and attentive personal observation is, that the breeders of Short-horns, far from having any thing to apprehend, have every thing favourable to anticipate from a competition with the Herefords. By unanimity, and the exercise of liberal principles towards each other, in the mutual interchange of stock, they may rest assured of proceeding day by day to render their superiority still more apparent, and ultimately, at no distant period, prove, to the overpowering conviction of all objectors, that they can, in the best sense of the words, "*go on.*"

FINIS.



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